

War with the Senses;
O R,
FREE THOUGHTS
O N
SNUFF-TAKING.

BY
A FRIEND TO FEMALE BEAUTY.

Richard Russell.

All customs by degrees to habits rise;
Ill habits soon become exalted vice!

Dryden's Ovid.

L O N D O N :

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TO THE
F E M A L E S
O F
GREAT BRITAIN.

“ The smallest speck is seen on Snow !”

L A D I E S,

AS it is universally allowed that no country or place in the known world, exceeds the women of this Island in Beauty, is it not greatly to be regretted that some of these (if ever so few) should in the least eclipse that symmetry and harmony of countenance, nature has given ?—Forbid it reason !—Forbid it good

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sense !

sense ! O ! leave it to the men only to defile and daub themselves with the filth of Snuff ; and perhaps when your example becomes more general, they may in a great measure (as not pleasing to you) leave it off :—If they do not, may the following anathema fall on them !—*viz.*—To be despised by the most engaging and decent of your sex, for their folly and unnatural persisting in this odious custom.

This is written chiefly for the Fair Sex, although the men are most addicted to the irrational folly ; but the distorting and spoiling their faces is not so much to be lamented.

Adver-

Advertisement.

THIS effort to reform will no doubt meet with many adversaries, as there are so many addicted to the Vice here complained of, which makes some exhortation the more necessary. Whether friends or enemies approve or disapprove, they may do some good in the purchase of this Pamphlet, as their money will help to forward one of the main designs of the publication ; which
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is to administer relief to the distressed, as well as advice to those who need it ; for the writer has not the least view to any pecuniary advantage, and if any profit shall arise from the sale of it, it will be given to some public charity.

It may be thought by some that he has been too severe in his observations, and too harsh in his epithets ; but let such attribute it to his zeal for the preservation of that beauty, which nature has so liberally diffused to many of the human species ; especially the Fair Sex ; and to shew them the loathsomeness of Snuff.

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He knows he has not abilities sufficient to make an author, therefore cannot be supposed to write for fame, nor did he ever trouble the Public before with any composition of this kind, and most probably never may again; but as he associates with his fellow creatures, should be exceeding happy if he did not so often meet with a very nauseous spectacle of their own making.

It is too well known in several families that this vice has caused much uneasiness, and been so justified by custom, that many who have utterly disapproved of it, could not presume to signify
their

their displeasure; and some have separated their tables on account of it, without mentioning the real cause of so doing.—Now, perhaps, the giving or lending, or only putting this in the way of any person violently addicted to this folly, may be of service; as the Pamphlet sometime since published, called a Present for Women addicted to Drinking, was, in making peace and content in some families. The writer once knew an instance of a book, intitled the Prodigal Son, being laid in the way of an extravagant young heir, that did him more service, and had more effect on him than all the other attempts that were made use of to reclaim him.

WAR with the SENSES ;

O R,

Free Thoughts on Snuff-Taking.

THE most liberal and candid must confess that every deviation from the laws of God and Nature is undoubtedly Evil, and therefore no one can be justly charged with cynical asperity, for deeming that a Vice which nature and experience prove so. It certainly must be criminal since it is absolute rebellion against the laws of nature, to distort and disfigure the Human Face, and whoever has observed people addicted to the Vice of Snuff

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Taking

Taking must have often seen an agreeable countenance defaced, the eyes made to stare and water, and cause evacuations which should as much as possible be concealed; and when unavoidable, nothing but the impossibility of always preventing, can excuse. Then certainly to cause and provoke such an unnecessary evacuation, disagreeable to behold and also hurtful to the human edifice, especially the Attic Story, must be a Sin. Who without regret can see an agreeable and well dressed Lady with a beautiful Countenance, elegant Symmetry, and fine natural colouring of the Features, pull off a glove, and with a fine white delicate hand take out a box, and put her pretty thumb and finger into a nasty-coloured powder, and apply the same to a beautiful Face and spoil it, by changing the fine natural colour of the Skin in

more

more places than where this filthy drug is laid on, and causing the blood to rise into the face by coughing, &c. This is not uncommon even to those constantly addicted to this nauseous custom. If the Sense of smelling must be gratified, there are much more decent ways of doing it; such as Effence of Smelling Bottles, &c. &c. &c.

The Ingenious Author of the Spectator N^o 173, has been serious in his observations on Grinners; I could wish he had been so likewise on Snuff Takers, but what he says concerning the former, may be said with equal propriety of the latter, especially in men, and ancient hard featured Females; both of which have really often put me in mind of the look of Milton's Death, and

“ Grinn'd horribly a ghastly Smile.”

I would also recommend Snuff Takers to consider whether or no, they are not guilty of an affront to their Species, in treating after this manner the Human Face formed after the Divine Image, and whether it has not something immoral as well as ridiculous, altho' it may be esteemed too free to compare Snuff Takers with Grinners; as it is impossible to make a fine delicate face as odious as one that is masculine. Yet I may with truth positively say, that the finest and most beautiful mien often is, as much distorted as any angry Grinner, and all the Difference is, that the countenance is originally not hard favor'd or masculine, so consequently not so odious; but by this means equally Injured.

To corroborate this assertion, we see the Eyes of many people before Sniffing up
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the Snuff, and immediately after, even if it doth not make their eyes water, (as is very usual with Snuff Takers) receive ultimate detriment by the unnatural convulsion of the optic nerve. I am certain did many but see themselves just after the pinch is taken, and observe the alteration it makes in their countenance, they would be induced to refrain from this custom, so very disagreeable to those about them, who are more cleanly than to fall into such unnatural follies.

It is the greatest Mark of good Manners to endeavour to be as agreeable as possible to the Company, but this must certainly be forgotten by those, who adopt this very offensive procedure. Even at Meals, to see the Nose and upper Lip of some people ***** is but an unpleasant object. Add to this the disagreeable

able

able Sound attending the concussion of the Nose when the Snuff is stuffed in; even so that the most agreeable person or Conversation is not able to compensate for it. As it threatens some formidable emanations, their conversation cannot be so well attended to, because few like to behold so disagreeable an object, and must be obliged to be inattentive to their discourse or abruptly turn from them; this is a piece of contempt they bring upon themselves by being so disagreeable to all but their fellow Snuff Takers, and doubt not but many have seen and felt the slight put upon them, but not attributed it to the real cause.

It may reasonably be supposed the writer of this is not the only person, who has his appetite much hurt by the handling of Snuff about between each course

at

at Dinner. Where the object is disagreeable by nature, or deform'd by some unforeseen event, all reasonable people will rather pity than censure, and take as little notice as possible of the defect; but where a defect is caused by folly, it is a just object of ridicule, and a mark of real friendship to advise, or dehort the Perpetrator from pursuing such a disgusting Vice. The most common excuse for continuing it is, "I have so long used it, I cannot now leave it off." That the most palpable absurdities should be warranted and authorized by Custom, is a reproach to rational and intelligent creatures, but that the discerning world should be the Slaves of usurping Precedents, is astonishing to conceive of, as well as almost unaccountable likewise. This implicit submission is only the want of resolution, because there are some who have

omitted

omitted this unseemly practice, especially a late Instance of a person, who had a friend honest enough to tell him that he thought Snuff Taking was the greatest foible he was guilty of, and wondered that one of his sense and understanding should use it to such excess. This serious admonition had such an effect on him, that he actually has refrained from the practice for several years, and now speaks clear, breaths freely, and is a healthy, wholesome-looking, cleanly man.

There are some in vindication of this odious custom say, it is a friendly Assistant to nature, and helps the health. To them it can only be replied, that most people will endeavour to palliate a vice they are fond of, and are so much accustomed to; but its disagreeable effect to
others

others about them, who abhor this nasty custom, (as a point of good manners) should have some influence on them, and at least prevent them from adding to the nuisance of their own taking it by so very frequently offering it to others, who dislike it. That omission could not be construed a want of politeness, as most snuff takers are ready enough to beg, if they see any of their own Sort in company, and are not provided with it themselves, and I would advise the snuff taker to look at the person before he offers his disagreeable Drug, to see if he resembles one of that filthy fraternity. He may first observe if he has distorted Eyes, and a yellow loathsome colour about his upper lip or nostril, like the Vestiges of a High Road. It is a very great, but too common error in mankind, to think that all others must like what they do, but let

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them

them first calmly and seriously consider what they have a particular aversion to, and then think how they would chuse to have that very thing perpetually and constantly presented to them and offered just under the nose, and sometimes in the midst of an important conversation. Ask those who cannot bear Cheese, Oysters, &c. &c. &c. how they would be pleased to have a box of them put often near their face and requested to partake of the unpleasing Diet.

It is not the frequency of any custom that can make it in any degree the less absurd, many have begun this ridiculous custom with reluctance, only to be thought fashionable, till by long habit it became a settled folly. Bad example has done much mischief in the world, by
causing

causing others to follow what otherwise would have never been adopted.

Ill Habits gather by unseen Degrees,
As Brooks make Rivers, Rivers run to Seas.

Dryden's Virgil.

Little Miss would never have thought of Snuff taking, if she had not seen her Mother and old maiden Aunt do it before her, and Betty the Chamber-maid, Molly the House-maid, and Mrs. Cook, would never have thought of buying Snuff Boxes but to imitate their Mistresses ; and the Girl at next door, just come from the country, seeing Mrs. Molly, (while washing the stone steps at the door) set down her mop to take a pinch of Snuff, thinks all London maids do so likewise, and she to be sure must resemble them. She conquers the first difficulty of it, and

continues

continues it, even to old age, when with poverty, fluttishness, and dram drinking added to it, make her as disagreeable an object as any *Female* possibly can be.*

Custom that doth still dispense,
An universal influence,
And make things right or wrong appear,
Just as they do her Liv'ry wear.

HUDIBRAS.

I would advise all those who suffer or permit their servants to use it, to consider how they will like their cook, to let the Snuff Box fall into the dripping-pan, and then baste their meat with it; or if they can have a good appetite for the pastry, when known to be made by a Snuff Taker.

Much

*The inimitable HOGARTH when delineating the most odious female Character, as an emblem of Vice and Sloth, represents her taking Snuff. *Vide his print of Gin-Lane.*

Much more might be said on this mixture of Snuff &c. in food, but to handle it with truth would be indelicate, and breaking through the rules of decency. If so, how can reasonable people do, or suffer to be done, any thing that will not bear mentioning ? Or too indecent to be thought of ? It is a nasty folly, quite unnecessary, and may be avoided.

Thus from the highest to the lowest, it runs as a fashion, till it becomes a vice, very disagreeable to all about them, who are not addicted to it.

I shall only add what I saw a very short time ago : a very good Orator, and otherwise a sensible man, was declaiming on an agreeable subject, to a large audience ; his delivery was just, his action good, his periods well turned, his emphas-
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his proper, his language pleasing, his voice strong, clear, and musical. All this he was for near half an hour; but on his application to his Snuff Box, and drawing the Snuff, with a disagreeable snort up his nose, his voice was quite altered to a snuffle, his eyes watered, so that he kept snuffling and wiping to the end of his discourse, and, what was so agreeably begun, was prevented continuing so by this nasty habit, and made the latter part disagreeable by a kind of stoppage to the words, and prevented him from speaking in so articulate a manner as before, and for the evening spoiled the Orator.

Here let me pause a moment, and ask the sons of eloquence, and the lovers of declamation, if they can admit any excuse as sufficient for transforming the fascinating pathos of an orator, into the discordant

cordant and confused sounds, produced by an undue exercise of the olfactory nerve? Can a temporary gratification compensate for the loss or injury of the most animating and irresistible charm peculiar to intelligent creatures, even speech? Let the votary to Snuff introduce what arguments he will, none can defend his baneful innovation.

The speech in general of those who are so constantly snuffing this odious dust up their nostrils, is very different from such who refrain from doing violence to elocution. As the former speak like persons affected by a cold, or that had sustained the misfortune of losing their nose or palate, while the latter use that voice, with all its pleasing exertions, which nature has liberally given them, others are intoxicated almost to melancholy and
madness;

madness ; and those that are quite insane are great admirers of Snuff, as is frequently seen at the receptacles for those unhappy people, by their constant use and begging for it of all visitors.

How agreeable, chearful, and gay, does a small company in sprightly conversation appear if no Snuff box is introduced among them? how much preferable in sense and wit is the conversation, than if only employed in handing the Box about, with the absurd invitation, take a Pinch of mine, or mine, and the ridiculous speech of taste this. This is employment beneath the dignity of rational creatures.

Nor be the Handkerchief forgot,
All varnish'd o'er with Snuff and f——.

SWIFT.

There

There is a pleasing neatness in the people (in derision) called Quakers, which would be utterly defaced were Snuff generally used among them ; and I cannot recollect ever seeing one instance of any of these decent people ever becoming slaves to this unnatural practice.

The writer of this does not employ his pen out of mere pique against a custom he cannot adopt, or approve of ; and hopes he shall be forgiven by his readers, especially the Fair Sex, for making so free, to persuade them from so unpleasing an action.

Let any impartial person look on a Lady with her fan, a book, netting shuttles, &c. how pleasing and chearful she looks compared to the attitude of the

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finger

finger and thumb, holding the melancholy pinch, even from a gold or diamond case it was contained in, if ever so fine, it only represents Pandora's Box ; and it is out of real respect that he recommends to his fair country-women to leave it off, that they may all appear still more engaging.

The men he would recommend to leave off pestering others, by so continually offering Snuff, where it is disagreeable, and which has often been the case with the writer of this short, well meant Treatise. Should these few hints have effect on either, he shall think his time well requited, and if it prevents one nauseous Box being offered to any person who dislikes it, or from being put under his own nose ; he has not wrote this in vain.

Lest an unjust partiality should be charged on the writer of this, in exercising some severity on a custom which entails many other subordinate appendages, he means to take an oblique view of its *German Cousin* smoking, and chewing Tobacco. These indeed are neither of them quite so disagreeable to others, or prejudicial to themselves, but at the same time are frequently productive of some unpleasing effusions. To see a man put into his mouth '*Bacco*, as it is vulgarly called, till it makes his cheeks or lips project like the jaw of a certain quadruped animal that wears a tail,* is rather

* Some may consider this simile too severe, when applied to the *human species*, but as there are many animals who walk only on two legs like men, that both cram Tobacco into their mouths, and wear *long tails* likewise, it may not be wholly inapplicable.

rather more ridiculous than disgusting, and is seldom used by a man of decency in the presence of Ladies. To those who are accustomed to hardships, or to endure the inclemencies of the weather, and likewise to some valetudinarians, Smoaking may be really beneficial, and consequently justifiable; but to such who are unaccustomed to any difficulties more than ordinary, it is a superfluous, and to some, offensive indulgence, as the smell communicates itself to our cloaths, &c.

Many, no doubt, in defence of Smoaking, will urge its physical utility, its anti-pestilential properties, and the like; but, nevertheless, all must allow there is often a *local* impropriety in using it. This is the grievance complained of, this the evil to be remedied, by the discretion and good breeding of its votaries.

To

To combat popular prejudices is of all tasks the most arduous and dangerous, for few approve, many censure, all fear. Under these accumulated disadvantages this short Address will appear, and nothing but the candour of the discerning and impartial can screen me from that vengeance, which most *Reformers* meet with.

Should these desultory observations in any wise excite attention, or in the smallest degree produce a reformation in these particulars, the writer will not regret having devoted some little time, in protesting against the absurd, pernicious, and unnatural practice of *Snuff Taking*.

F I N I S.

The various popular principles of all
the world are the same and dangerous.
The few approve, many condemn, all fear.
Under these are the seeds of dissension
the more abundant, the more the people
are the more the seeds of the evil are
increased and the more the seeds are
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